

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) A bipartite RNA viral vector, comprising:
 - (a) a modified tobavirus RNA-1 comprising a first foreign RNA sequence, operably linked to 3'-end of the stop codon of the RNA sequence that codes for a ~~16kDa~~ cysteine-rich protein of RNA-1;
 - (b) a modified tobavirus RNA-2 comprising a promoter-gene construct, which comprises a subgenomic promoter operably linked to the 5' end of a second foreign RNA sequence, wherein said promoter-gene construct is inserted in place of the 2C gene.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 3 ~~any one of Claims 3-4~~, wherein the said first or said second foreign RNA is either a complete open reading frame or a partial open reading frame.
7. (Currently amended) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 3 ~~any one of Claims 3-4~~, wherein the said first or said second foreign RNA is in either a positive sense or an antisense orientation.

8. (Currently amended) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA codes for part of a protein.
9. (Original) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 8, wherein said vector is a silencing vector.
10. (Currently amended) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 6, wherein said second foreign RNA codes for a protein.
11. (Original) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 10, wherein said vector is a silencing vector or an expression vector.
12. (Currently amended) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 3 ~~any one of Claims 3-4~~, wherein ~~the~~ said first or said second foreign RNA sequence is obtained from any member of a library of RNA sequences taken from a eukaryotic or prokaryotic species.
13. (Currently amended) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA encodes for all or part of a Nop 10-like small nucleolar ribonucleoprotein.
14. (Currently amended) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA encodes for all or part of a ~~DEAD~~ a DEAD box RNA helicase.
15. (Currently amended) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA encodes for all or part of putrescine N-methyltransferase.
16. (Currently amended) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA encodes for all or part of methionine synthase.

17. (Currently amended) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA encodes for all or part of a PRP 19-like spliceosomal protein.
18. (Currently amended) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA encodes for all or part of a CRS2 protein.
19. (Currently amended) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA encodes for all or part of a GTP-binding protein.
20. (Currently amended) A method of expressing one or more foreign gene in a plant host, comprising:
infecting a plant host with the RNA viral vector of Claim 3 ~~any one of Claims 3-4~~,
whereby ~~the~~ said second foreign gene is expressed in the plant host.
21. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising allowing the viral vector to infect the plant systemically.
22. (Currently amended) A method of silencing one or more plant host genes, comprising:
infecting a plant host with the RNA viral vector of Claim 3 ~~Claims 3-4~~,
whereby the expression of said first or said second foreign RNA sequence causes silencing of an endogenous plant host gene.
23. (Original) The method according to Claim 22, further comprising allowing the viral vector to infect the plant systemically.
24. (Original) A method of simultaneously silencing a plant host gene and expressing a foreign gene, comprising:
infecting a host with the bipartite RNA viral vector of Claim 3, whereby
the first foreign RNA sequence causes silencing of an endogenous gene of a plant host, and the second foreign RNA is expressed in the plant host.

25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim[s] 24, ~~or 25~~, further[ing] comprising allowing the viral vector to infect the plant systemically.
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Canceled)
31. (Canceled)
32. (Currently amended) A plant host infected by a viral RNA vector according to Claim 3 ~~any one of Claims 3-4~~.
33. (Canceled)
34. (Canceled)
35. (Canceled)
36. (Currently amended) A method of changing the phenotype or biochemistry of a plant host, comprising:
 - (a) infecting a plant host with the RNA viral vector of Claim 3 ~~any one of Claims 1-4~~,
 - (b) expressing transiently said foreign RNA sequence in said plant host; and

- (c) changing one or more phenotypic or biochemical characteristics in
- ~~(d)~~ said plant host, ~~and~~

37. (Canceled)